

Amendments to the Claims:

Cancel claims 11 and 17-21, without prejudice or disclaimer.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) Apparatus for opening and closing a door leaf, the apparatus comprising:

a housing made of polyoxymethylene plastic, the housing having a recess;

a piston made of polyoxymethylene plastic, the piston having a toothed rack and being arranged for movement in the recess;

a closing shaft comprising a pinion which engages the rack to drive the piston in the recess; and

a closing spring arranged in the recess acting on the piston oppositely to the closing shaft,
wherein the toothed rack is made of metal and is embedded in the piston by molding the polyoxymethylene plastic around the rack so that the rack and the piston form a one-piece element.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the piston and the housing are injection molded.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the housing is fitted with bearing shells which support the closing shaft, the bearing shells being made of polyoxymethylene plastic.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the bearing shells are press fit into the housing and welded to the housing by ultrasonic welding.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the recess has an open end which is sealed by an end plug, the end plug being made of polyoxymethylene plastic.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the end plug is pressed into the housing and welded to the housing by ultrasonic welding.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising hydraulic bores in the housing, the bores having outlets which are sealed by plugs made of polyoxymethylene plastic.

17.-21. (canceled)